

A Celebration of unsung heroes



Annual Report
2007
City of Fairfield, Ohio

As Residents Sleep *They Quietly Serve*

In the darkest hours of the night, as most residents are sound asleep, lights flash across town. Police respond to an accident; paramedics, likewise, rush to the scene. An employee in the City's Public

Utilities Department makes appointed rounds to maintain operations at the Water Treatment Plant off Groh Lane. A snow plow driver works overtime to clear Resor Road and spreads salt for morning rush hour traffic.

The middle of the night, however, isn't

the only time that dedicated City employees quietly go about their appointed duties in service of a hometown of 45,000 residents. Daily, City workers toil at a desk or brave the elements of sometimes demanding outdoor assignments to deliver a level of service each resident deserves and has come to expect in the City known as Fairfield, Ohio.

Residents likely will never get the chance to meet the vast majority of City workers who serve them. After all, their paths may never meet as each pursues separate journeys through life. Yet, the collective contributions of those anonymous City workers combine to produce a quality of life unique only to Fairfield. Anonymous, that is, until now...



This annual report, while highlighting the major accomplishments of the City in 2007, endeavors to provide readers

with a sample of those City workers who have dedicated themselves to community service and to making Fairfield the robust community it has become.

Take a few moments to reflect on a year of accomplishment and celebrate some of Fairfield's unsung heroes.



Top: Mechanic Joe McQueen of the Public Works Department adjusts belts in a police cruiser. **Above:** Emergency Services Dispatcher Dawn Burns reviews one of her multiple screens during a police call. **Left:** Jason Hunold of the Public Utilities Department checks pressure readings on a pump at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. **Top Left:** An unidentified snow plow operator clears a record snowfall from an area street.

On the cover: (Clockwise beginning with top right photo) Public Utilities Operator Ray Wood collects a water sample at the Water Treatment Plant. Detective Mike Woodall talks with a young mother and her son. Police Department Network Analyst Steve Collins optimizes servers. Maintenance Worker/Laborer David Bond plows snow on State Route 4 (The green laser marks the spot where the tip of the plow will clear an object.) Along with his colleagues, Firefighter/Paramedic Jamie Ruhl collects donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Mayor & City Council

Fairfield's government services are directed by elected representatives, each from diverse backgrounds who have a common pledge to represent the will of the community. Their collective vision and direction over the years to serve the needs of Fairfield's families have created a thriving, contemporary community.

In the hands of the elected officials rests the wellbeing of the community. It's no small task. The Mayor and City Council invest countless hours in meetings, public hearings and informational sessions so that they can make the important decisions that set the course for the future. Then there's the hours each elected official invests in reading and studying as they weigh the positives and negatives of each calculated decision.

The City of Fairfield operates under a Council-Manager form of government, which provides for an elected Mayor and City Council working with an appointed City Manager. The Mayor and three Council Members are elected at-large, with Council Members also elected from each of Fairfield's four wards.

City Council is responsible for establishing City policy and enacting legislation to guide the direction of the municipal government. Other responsibilities include the establishment of rates for public utilities and the authority to retain independent, certified public accountants to audit City records.

During 2007, Fairfield's City Council conducted 63 public meetings, including regular meetings, council/manager briefings, special sessions and public hearings. As a result of public input and careful Council consideration, 198 ordinances



Above: Fairfield City Council is comprised of seven members and the Mayor. Three members and the Mayor are elected at-large; one member is elected in each of four wards. The Mayor presides over meetings and casts the deciding vote in the event Council Members are deadlocked. **Below:** Clerk of Council Dena Morsch (right) has served in her position since 1979. She is assisted by Angie Johns. The two are responsible for coordinating and publicizing Council meetings, recording legislative actions and ensuring all legal requirements are met for Councilmatic actions.

and resolutions were adopted during the year.

City Council is comprised of seven committees: Community and Public Relations; Development Services; Finance & Budget; Parks, Recreation & Environment; Public Safety; Public Utilities; and Public Works. Each Council member serves as a chairperson, a vice chair and a member on three separate committees.

Council and the Mayor are supported by a full-time and a part-time staff member. These dedicated City workers are responsible for agenda preparation, information packets, media notification

and record keeping of Council actions and legislative decisions. They also respond to information requests of the Mayor and each Council member.



Boards & Commissions

The people who serve on the City's Boards and Commissions comprise an important group of unsung heros. They serve without pay, spend many hours of personal time to review matters before their respective organization, yet a majority of residents will rarely even know who they are. Listed here are the many boards, commissions and advisory groups comprised of scores of community volunteers.

Board of Building Appeals

Board of Zoning Appeals

Butler County Board of Health

Butler County Transportation Improvement District

Charter Review Committee

Civil Service Commission

Community Reinvestment Housing Council

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission

Design Review Committee

Environmental Resources and Community Forest Commission

Fair Housing Board

Parks & Recreation Board

Planning Commission

Records Commission

Traffic Advisory Committee

Ward Boundary Review Commission

Wellhead Protection Appeals Board

Just doing their job...



Clockwise: (At right) Camp Instructor **Kristy Fields** leads an activity during a day camp program at the Community Arts Center. (Her sister, **Stacy Fields**, sits with the group on the left end of the top row.) Multi-family zoning inspector **Audrey Blackwell** completes a field report. A utility crew braves the elements to repair a broken water main. Public Works laborers (left to right) **Tony Mayer**, **David Bond** and **Chris Hensley** apply mulch at the Public Works compound on Gilmore Road. Municipal Court Baliff **Dave Rotroff** accompanies a prisoner for a court appearance before Judge **Joyce Campbell**.



To Our Residents

City
of
Fairfield



Dear Residents and Businesspersons of Fairfield,

Each year, the Fairfield Annual Report highlights those important events which have impacted residents and businesses in our community. As I reflect on these past ten years as your City Manager, it is reassuring to note that Fairfield has much of which to be proud. Our City has raised the bar for quality service delivery within the greater metropolitan area and has done so in an efficient and cost effective manner. Increasingly, other communities have sought to emulate many of our successes in hopes of providing an enhanced quality of life for their people. As the adage goes "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery".

Too often, success is measured by those major accomplishments that are the most visible. The real measure of success, however, is the collective effect of the dedicated efforts of city workers who perform the many day to day jobs on behalf of the residents and businesspersons of our community. To some degree, these latter contributions often go unnoticed by the average citizen. However, the ongoing efforts by city staff members, and appointed and elected officials alike, comprise the framework so necessary to the achievement of the City's larger, more noticeable projects and programs.

The City's people play an important part of making Fairfield a place so many are proud to call "home". Whether a decision maker, an individual who helps execute a plan, or someone whose supportive role helps achieve a goal, all are a vital part of something much bigger than each of their individual contributions.

Usually, annual reports merely feature the high points of the year and the 2007 report does offer a review of the City's major achievements. However, this edition also endeavors to provide a bit of well deserved attention to a sampling of staff members that residents may never see. This annual report is dedicated to those public servants who quietly serve residents, just by doing their jobs day-in and day-out. They represent the unsung heroes of our City. All in all, Fairfield's strongest asset continues to be felt in the Values, Work Ethic and Community Pride of its people.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur E. Pizzano
City Manager



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City Manager

Public Utilities

On a freezing afternoon, a laborer from the Public Utilities Department fights the cold in a muddy ditch to repair a broken water main. Another worker sits in a darkened van intently watching a video feed of a small camera inching its way through a sewer line. A resident fills a coffee maker with water to begin her day, without giving a thought to the meticulous processes needed to ensure the purity of the lifegiving liquid.

Dozens of workers in the Public Utilities Department join together each and every day to serve residents with the best water quality possible and to accommodate the demand when water becomes wastewater. The demand is insatiable, with the City of 45,000 residents and area businesses consuming an average of 5.1-million gallons of water daily. An average of 5.3-million gallons return each day for treatment before being returned to the environment.

Without compromising any element of quality control, every effort is made to trim operational costs so that residents enjoy the lowest costs necessary. Their collective efforts continue to pay dividends.

During 2007, Fairfield residents paid the lowest combined water/sewer rates in all of southwestern Ohio, as reported by an annual comparative survey of 64 communities. It's the second consecutive year that Fairfield earned the honor of having the region's lowest water/sewer rates, with customers paying \$113.19 for a three-month water/sewer bill for 22,500 gallons of water. The average bill in the region for 2007 was \$184.97.

Much of the economy for water resources stems from long-range planning and prudent system improvements. But every little bit

helps, like when employees at the Wastewater Treatment Plant found a way in 2007 to lower costs in bio-solids disposal by 30-35 percent. Their efforts save \$50,000 annually. An

energy management initiative in the Wastewater Division saved another \$30,000 to \$35,000 annually in energy costs. Conservation and increased use of methane gas generated as a byproduct of treatment have saved \$70,000 to \$80,000.

Saving resources today is important, but instilling conservation in a generation could have an even farther reaching impact, which is why Fairfield enthusiastically supports WaterFest, a daylong environmental awareness program at Miami University/Hamilton attended by about 1,000 fourth, fifth and sixth graders.

WaterFest is sponsored by the Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium, comprised of seven water suppliers, including the City of Fairfield. Members of the Consortium generate an average of 70 million gallons of water daily.

Above: A Public Utilities crew prepares for the installation of an emergency generator at the Water Treatment Plant. Plant Maintenance Workers **Todd Bradbury** (left) and **Nick Middendorf** (right) work outside the front end loader, operated by **Tim Hare**.

Left: (Left to right) Wastewater Collections Laborer **Tony Stephens** is pictured with Operator/Maintenance Worker **Ray Vaught** and Operations Foreman **Brad Abner**.



Public Works

There's salt on the plowed streets in the midst of winter's fury. City facilities and medians are inviting with well kept lawns and shrubbry. Traffic lights safely regulate the flow of traffic on the way to work and a damaged street sign is replaced seemingly overnight.

Few of Fairfield's Public Works employees will gain the attention of residents because they toil without fanfare or regular accolades. The work they do, however, quietly offers residents and business owners a quality of life too often overlooked.

Public Works tends to projects like the urgent repair in 2007 of a second section of River Road where swollen, swift waters of the Great Miami undermined the roadway near an earlier river bank slip of a few years ago. Workers improved the approaches to a dangerous railroad crossing on Seward Road. New mastarm traffic signals with energy efficient and ultrabright LED bulbs have been installed throughout the City, like at State Route 4 at Michael Lane and Camelot Drive, and at State Route 4 and Nilles Road.

Intersection improvements have promoted safety and traffic flow. In 2007, Public Works was responsible for significant safety upgrades at the

intersections of South Gilmore and Mack Roads, and at Winton and John Gray Roads.

Public Works also spearheaded the second phase of a federally funded buy-out program of homes along the flood-prone Pleasant Run Creek. In

2007, five of eleven homes were purchased. In the first round of the buy-outs, started in 2003, 21 homes were purchased and razed.

Closer to the homes of

residents was the asphalt overlay to 33 residential streets, including an upgrade to Sandy Lane and Burns Road. Public Works was responsible for the resurfacing of By-Pass 4 and is

actively planning for the widening of the roadway through Fairfield. Also undertaken in 2007 was the major improvements to Groh Lane for the thousands of families whose young athletes begin their bid for sports stardom.

Curbs were replaced along 26 streets and crews tended to 73 small drainage projects. Storm sewer curb inlets were replaced in nine locations. Motorists likely haven't noticed, but on a dark rainy night, they'll appreciate the raised pavement markers installed in various areas throughout the City.

Undertaking the work is demanding enough, but each project must be identified, scheduled, planned, and budgeted. The administration of the endless projects is the responsibility of another group of dedicated employees also likely never to be seen nor fully appreciated.



Above: Job Foreman Randy Levline loads salt onto a plow during blizzard conditions.

Right: (Left to right) Crew Leader Tom Hall, Foreman Clint Emmons, Crew Leader Rodney Jones and Foreman James Price Sr., take a break outside the Public Works Garage.



Parks & Recreation

The fun-filled programs enjoyed through the year by thousands of residents is the product of serious work by the dedicated staff of the Parks & Recreation Department. The bigger the event, the more involved the logistics and planning. Imagine the time and effort invested in something like the annual Red, White & KaBoom fireworks display, the 16 week Summer Concert Series at Village Green Park, or the 94 performances that entertained nearly 13,000 performing arts patrons at the Community Arts Center.

Planning alone is monumental. Then there's the execution of those plans... and the clean-up afterward. Every household gets the City's quarterly newsletter, which contains hundreds of programs, camps, classes and events. Keeping everything straight and

tracking reservations for the myriad of offerings in and of itself is a work of art to which few even give a second thought.

Anyone who maintains their home and lawn can appreciate the never-ending task of caring for 35 parks and facilities within the City, including the Community Arts Center, 18-hole and a 9-hole golf courses, the Aquatic Center, an 1817 farm mansion, bike/hike paths and two historic cemeteries.

With a relatively small staff, much was

accomplished in 2007. Here's a review of the impressive line-up of

achievements undertaken by the Parks & Recreation Department during the year:

Fairfield Greens Golf Courses:

The new clubhouse at the South Trace was completed.



The new clubhouse at the Fairfield Greens' South Trace opened in March 2008.

Despite working from temporary clubhouse quarters during construction, patrons played 40,405 rounds at the South Trace. At the North Trace executive course, 18,393 rounds were recorded.

Miami-Erie Canal Bike Path:

Constructed in partnership with Butler Metro Parks, the City completed a second phase of the bike path in 2007, taking the path from just east of the Gilmore Ponds Nature Preserve to the Fairfield/West Chester border. There, the pathway joins with the original path that originates at State Route 747 and Port Union Road.

Community Arts Center: With its ample classroom/studio space, a Senior Lounge, Children's Room, community rooms and 235-seat theater, the Center is a hub of activities throughout the year. In 2007, 62,815 participants took advantage of program offerings at the Center. Thanks to a partnership with Mercy Hospital and Sojourner Recovery

Left: A call to the Parks & Recreation Department is often answered by front desk personnel (left to right) Rhonda Kreiner, Mary Jo Hill and Lisa Wright.

Facing Page: Theater Technical Coordinator Jason Hauslein runs through audio checks for a program at the Community Arts Center.





During 2007, Martin Marietta Aggregates announced the beginning of its final phase of mining operations adjacent to Marsh Lake, triggering a 1955 agreement that would eventually deed the property to the City for public use. With the transfer, Marsh Lake will encompass 138 total acres.

As shown in this conceptual drawing, possible amenities in the future could include a primitive lodge on the north banks of the lake along a theme relating to the old milltown of Fairplay that once stood in the general area. A beach and ship-themed waterslide would be located nearby. Primitive camping would be available on what has been tentatively named Skull Rock Island. The existing bathhouse could be used by safety service personnel and chaperones who would be able to remain nearby young campers.

Services, a series of concerts featured such nationally known artists as the Byrds' Roger McGuinn, Billy Dean and Kenny Rankin.

55 Plus Activities:

A growing number of residents 55 and over are discovering a program just for them at the Community Arts Center. The program offers a variety of arts/crafts opportunities, social events, fitness programs, classes and day-trips. With a mailing list of 1,000 recipients, the program has attracted 5,500 casual participants and 2,186 class participants.

Village Green Park: Thousands of residents journeyed to Village Green Park through the summer to enjoy the 16-week "Groovin' on the Green" Summer Concert Series. The series featured a sampling of music styles and tastes from Big Band to rock-n-roll. Major events, such as September Dayz and Holly Days, also were



presented, along with Movies in the Park, the Fine Arts Fair and the Hamilton/Fairfield Symphony Orchestra. Programs were also offered in partnership with the Lane Public Library, Fairfield School District, and the Fitton Center for the Creative Arts.

Red, White & KaBoom: This annual City event has proven to be a focal point for backyard Independence Day celebrations throughout the area. Harbin Park hosts the event due to the visibility of the display from most locations in the City. In addition to attracting thousands of spectators to Harbin Park for a front row seat, Village Green and the Aquatic Center are opened during the show.

Aquatic Center: For cool fun on hot days, 42,813 visitors chose the Aquatic Center as their summer destination. The Center is home to the Fairfield Piranha Swim Team. In addition to

family fun, 586 children attended the Center for the serious business of learning to swim. Special programs included teen night activities and the popular Caribbean Cruise Night, which features the Miami University Steel Drum Band.

Marsh Fishing Lake: Summertime... and the livin' was easy for 6,927 guests at Marsh Lake, stocked with 7,857 pounds of fish in 2007. During the year, 4,603 fish were caught weighing in at 11,345 pounds. Patrons released 5,649 pounds of the fish back into the lake. The largest fish caught in 2007 was a 55 pound blue catfish hauled in by Dan Glazier. On a sad note, following his retirement after years of dedicated service to guests of Marsh Lake, long-time Lake Manager Cecil Young died in 2007.

Summer Camps: The most popular programs offered annually by the Parks & Recreation Department is its series of summer camps. Over the 10-week Fun Camp and Adventure Camp, 11,168 participants from 6 to 15 years of age enjoyed supervised summer recreation. In addition, other camps were offered, including Dance, Theater and Nature Camps.

Development Services

A vibrant community depends on the vitality of its business and industry to provide jobs to its residents. From in-depth reviews of several multi-million dollar commercial proposals to the issuance of 1,700 building permits for the smallest of home projects, the 14-person staff of Fairfield's Development Services Department attend to the details that are important to the prosperity of a thriving community.

The pride of Fairfield homeowners shined brightly in 2007 when the City realized a 20 percent increase in the number of residential additions and remodeling projects over the levels in 2006. The statistics demonstrate that residents felt confident in making additional investments in their property at a time national trends



have shown a downturn in new construction, particularly in new home construction.

Despite a prolonged downward national building trend, 2007 was the first decline of new building investment in Fairfield following three consecutive years of significant increases in overall building investments within the City, including 21 new home starts. Even with

depressed national trends, Fairfield experienced \$40 million in new construction in 2007.

The future for a continued robust local economy also showed promise in 2007 when nationally recognized developers acquired large industrial tracts for future industrial development.

Major Development

Significant investments by major companies continued to account for much of Fairfield's prosperity. Industrial and commercial developments accounted for \$32 million of Fairfield's new construction in 2007. The larger projects included:

Cincinnati Financial Corporation: The \$98 million construction of a third high-rise tower at the company's South Gilmore Road campus neared completion in 2007. The 487,000 square foot addition will accommodate 1,500 insurance professionals, 500 of them new employees. Fairfield's largest employer, CFC currently employs a total of 2,900 associates.

Iwata Bolt USA: A manufacturer and distributor of automotive metal bolts and fasteners, Iwata Bolt plans to construct a 115,000 square foot building on a 17 acre tract off Union Centre Boulevard. The Japanese-owned company will consolidate operations from facilities now located in California and in Vandalia, Ohio. In addition to the \$10.5 million investment in Fairfield, Iwata will employ 50 workers over three years.

Above: Planning Manager Erin Donovan and Planning Examiner Mike Stehlin review a proposed project for code compliance and zoning.

Left: Before any major project is finished, it will likely be reviewed by one of Fairfield's Building Inspectors (left to right) Brian Rose, Mike Piatt and Dave Hensley.



Brown-Campbell Company:

Construction has begun on a new \$9.2 million, 120,000 square foot building on Quality Boulevard that will eventually employ 50 workers. The Michigan-based company is a manufacturer and distributor of specialty metal products such as industrial flooring, grates and planks.

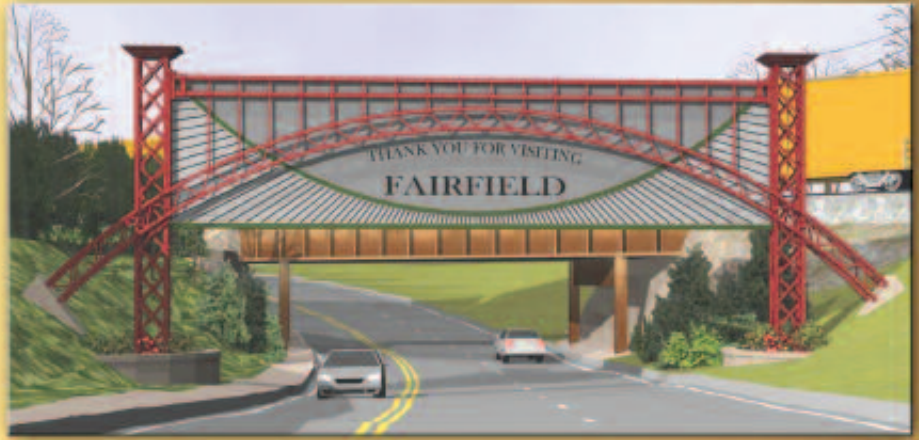
DCT Industrial: After identifying the strength of the industrial/distribution market along the Union Centre Boulevard corridor, national developer DCT Industrial partnered with Schumacher Dugan to develop a 100-acre tract along Port Union Road. When completed, the development will offer 1.7 million square feet of space.

Union Centre Industrial Park: Duke Realty Corporation has begun development of a 57-acre industrial tract on Union Centre Boulevard, where one million square feet of industrial space is under construction. The company has reported strong interest from tenants interested in locating to the new space.

Redevelopment

Attraction of new development is important to any community. Also important is the infusion of new enterprise to existing developments. Two significant projects occurred in 2007 with the announcement that the Ohio Valley Antiques Mall would open in the former Van Leunen's within the Woodridge Plaza. The new business opened its doors early in 2008. Fairfield Crossing at State Route 4 and Symmes also attracted additional tenants in 2007. Workforce One also opened in the center, where a number of other tenants are expected to be announced in 2008.

Significant upgrades were completed at the site of the former Fisher Body Plant after its new owners, First Highland Management and Development Corporation of Massachusetts, updated the property with modern upgrades. After removing the office building in front, the company installed exterior siding, windows and doorways.



Construction is planned in the fall of 2008 on this gateway at the north end of State Route 4 in Fairfield. The structure screens the overpass from view in the area of the newly renovated former Fisher Body Plant.

Changes in the landscaping will also accommodate outlots to be constructed along Symmes Road.

Route 4 Gateway

One of the more visible projects discussed in 2007 was a gateway over State Route 4 on the south side of the railroad overpass at St. Clair Avenue. While primarily designed as a visual screen to the railroad structure, the gateway will also thank motorists for visiting Fairfield.

The gateway is one of the goals established by the Route 4 Committee, an organization of nine business representatives established to promote the economic vitality of the five-mile stretch along State Route 4. The corridor is home to more than 500 businesses.

In addition, businesses along the corridor will also benefit from the creation of a companion organization, the Route 4 Marketing Committee. Established in 2007, the group is designed to promote business along the State Route 4 corridor.

With the premise that the gateway will enhance the north end of the State Route 4 corridor for attracting additional business investment, the City secured a Community Development Block Grant to construct the span. Site

work will begin in the summer with installation during the fall.

Home Expo/ Beautiful Fairfield

While many City employees work in the background, the annual Home Expo gives several knowledgeable staff members a chance to be in the spotlight. Plan Examiners, Building Inspectors and other City workers spend some time answering questions at various information booths featured at the spring event, which features dozens of building and design professionals

whose booths showcase the latest concepts in home decor and design. The Expo, which celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2007, offers a variety of door prizes and giveaways, including recycling bins, no-cost building permits and free advice.

In an effort to recognize residents' home improvements,

Fairfield introduced its first-ever Beautiful Fairfield Contest. The contest proved so popular that it will be expanded in 2008 to open additional categories, fostering even more interest and opportunity for awards and recognition.



Police Services

In a time of crisis, one of the City's least visible employees can be a lifesaver. They are seldom seen, but Fairfield's dedicated emergency dispatchers quickly sort through the facts and instantly communicate to police and fire personnel to get help on the way. Even as they calmly interact with a sometimes incoherent caller, they are texting critical information to crews in route, then continue to relay important facts.

Residents regularly see one of Fairfield's 61 sworn law enforcement officers in their daily routines. Residents rarely see any of the other 36 support personnel who enable the officers to efficiently serve residents: park rangers, juvenile diversion counselor, records clerks, property room clerk, police service aides, among a few. Each are just as important in times of crisis as the line officers who

respond to an urgent need.

Fairfield's dispatchers fielded 33,277 calls for service in 2007. Officers completed 2,323 crime reports, slightly fewer than in 2006. Officers investigated 56 cases of violent crimes in 2007. Declines were evident in the numbers of reports relating to assault, burglary, theft and auto theft. Traffic citations dropped slightly, with the Municipal Court reporting 3,708 cases, down from 4,172 in 2006. Fairfield Police Officers arrested 545 drivers for DUI, up from the 498 in 2006.



One development during 2007 is a cooperative agreement with the City of Hamilton to establish a joint SWAT team. The arrangement offers both communities more personnel and resources which will not need to be duplicated in each city.

Currently, four of Fairfield's officers have become SWAT team members.

Each day, Fairfield's police officers face unspeakable dangers in an unpredictable society. Training is the key to preparedness. While officers routinely engage in a variety of learning experiences, learning is not restricted to line officers and non-commissioned employees. Each of Fairfield's three Police Lieutenants achieved prestigious education honors during 2007. Lt. Kevin Haddix achieved his Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. Lt. Ken Gerold graduated from the School of Police Staff and Command at Northwestern University Center for Public Safety. Lt. Ken Colburn accepted an invitation to attend the prestigious FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, where he successfully completed an intense eleven-week program.

Above: Records Clerk Donna Schomaker files the hardcopy of a report.

Left As a Dispatcher, Dawn Burns (left) is the calm voice directing emergency response to 9-1-1 calls. Property Clerk Nancy Kunka (center) maintains evidence for safekeeping prior to court proceedings, sends crime scene evidence to external labs, files DVDs from cruiser dash cams, and tracks impounded vehicles. Kathy Contadino is in charge of the Police Department's records and reports. She may be the person providing a copy of an accident report or citation.



Municipal Court

Understandably, the judge is the most visible figure in any courtroom scene. The time spent on the bench, however, is only a small part of the commitment, which requires countless hours of research, case review, attorney conferences, and quiet contemplation required to ensure a fair and just conclusion to a court process.

A judge, however, requires the support of dozens of courtroom staff in order to ensure that justice is served with fairness and efficiency. Courtroom security, bailiffs, clerks, probation staff, community service officers, and accounting personnel all work together to conduct the daily operations of the City's judicial services.

During 2007, the Fairfield Municipal Court processed 3,708 traffic offenses and 4,063 criminal offenses. Additionally, the Court also adjudicated 9,785 civil and small claims cases. The Court reported total receipts of \$3,313,490 in various fines and fees, which is disbursed to numerous city, county and state accounts.

Increasingly, the Court is far more than just a place where guilt or innocence is determined. Today's society demands that justice be served, but also expects a sentence, when appropriate and effective, to include help that prevents a defendant from returning to court.

Above: Municipal Court Judge **Joyce Campbell** reviews case law prior to rendering a decision from the Bench.

Right: Most images of a court are those of a judge sitting on the bench. Court proceedings comprise only the beginning of judicial responsibility. Many quietly work behind the scenes, among them are (left to right) Chief Probation Officer **Karen Long**, Administrative Assistant to Judge Campbell **Monica Rose** and Chief Deputy Clerk **Tina Ragland**.



While violent offenders understandably face incarceration, non-violent defendants may receive a fine and/or a sentence of monitored house-arrest, mandated participation in therapy/counseling, community service or probation.

During 2007, those sentenced to community service provided \$45,169 worth of clean-up work to community entities (*figured at \$6.85/hour*). A comparable jail sentence would have cost Fairfield taxpayers \$49,455 in jail costs (*figured at \$60/day per prisoner*).



Fire & Emergency Services

They are there to answer the call. Any day, any hour, any situation. The preparedness comes only after ongoing training that pushes each Paramedic/Firefighter to the limits of human capability. A Paramedic/Firefighter's real job is mastering lifesaving skills and internalizing knowledge critical to every scenario. Their life depends on it... and so does the life of each Fairfield resident.

During 2007, Fairfield's Fire & Emergency Services responded to nearly 6,000 calls for help. In just one 24 hour period in 2007, Fairfield's Fire & Emergency Services responded to 37 calls. During the year, Fairfield encountered 21 working structure fires, responded to 406 vehicle accidents and recorded 394 false alarms.

Truth be known, however, emergency response is only a fraction of the job. It's all about being ready, which is why Fairfield constructed its own training complex off Groh Lane near Waterworks Park. During 2007, personnel trained in a new four-story burn tower to gain real-life experience in a controlled setting. A ventilation simulator, with two sections of rooftop slope, also was added in 2007. The simulator enables firefighters to learn proper technique in cutting openings to safely vent deadly smoke and other gases from a working fire.

They train, they test, and they train some more. Not just to help residents. Even firefighters need help when the unexpected happens. At each fire, a group of three or four specially trained and equipped

personnel stand at the ready as part of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). While fellow emergency personnel focus on a working fire, the RIT constantly analyzes the scene in the event one of their own faces a critical emergency.

Serving the public extends beyond municipal boundaries, which is why seven of Fairfield's fire personnel completed a 15-week series certifying them to be a part of the Butler County Technical

Rescue Team. The elite group is specially trained in highly specific scenarios. Because the group is countywide, Fairfield residents can depend on the skills and knowledge of experts capable of addressing unusual situations, such as rescue from a confined area, swift water rescue and hazardous material rescue.

The endless training pays big dividends, especially in the minutes following a tragedy where a life hangs in the balance. Like the aftermath of a motorcycle accident involving a war veteran who had just returned from combat in Iraq. Because two Paramedics knew exactly what to do in the precious little time they had, the soldier survived injuries that — by all accounts — should have been fatal. So precise was their response that Air Care bestowed special honors on Paramedic/Firefighters **Richard Hall** and **Randy McCreadie** for their unparalleled skills. So heroic was the lifesaving action, that the scenario was highlighted at Air Care's annual medical symposium.

A firefighter, however, does far more than fight fires. Over the years, they often invest their personal time in worthwhile community endeavors. Paramedic/Firefighter **Jamie Ruhl** (pictured on cover) recruits his co-workers to collect donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Others recognized the special circumstances facing blind children in a fire. So they developed a program to help address their fears, complete with braille training materials. A similar program was developed in conjunction with the Red Cross for children with hearing impairments.



Left: Firefighter/Paramedics **Richard Hall** (left) and **Randy McCreadie** were credited with saving the life of a veteran who had just returned from Iraq, only to find himself involved in a near fatal motorcycle accident. (See details in the story above.)

Finance Department

Anyone who balances a checkbook can appreciate the enormous task given to the account clerks and supervisors in the Finance Department as they routinely balance a budget of \$58 million. There's accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll for 276 full-time employees, part-time workers, income taxes, purchase orders, requisitions, fund transfers... the list goes on.

Add to the daily grind the fact that teams of government auditors

regularly check the books and have the authority to question the accounting of every penny, and it quickly becomes apparent that it's no easy job.

Often the lights are on long after most others have left for the night as someone reviews the ledger for proper accounting. The next day, someone will review the entry because all future numbers will build on that balance.

This report's summary has been checked, double checked and audited for accuracy.

It's the right way to do it. It's the only way we do it.



Mary Hopton
Finance Director

Fairfield's income sources

The major sources of revenues for the City include income tax, charges for services, grants and entitlements and property taxes (see *chart and table on page 14*). The total revenues for fiscal year 2007 were \$55,361,945. As reflected in the table on page 14, revenues were up in every category with the exception of debt proceeds. The overall decrease in revenues is due to the sale of the former Justice Center in 2006.

Fairfield's expense areas

The two largest program functions in 2006 were Security of

Persons and Property and Capital Outlay (see *chart and table on page 15*). Security of Persons and Property includes both the Police and Fire Departments and is historically the largest program within the City's operating budget. Capital Outlay was significant due to several large improvements.

Fairfield's operating budget

The 2007 operating budget, which was prepared in the fall and submitted to Council at the end of 2006, totaled \$60.2 million. The City's five-year Capital Improvement Program totaled \$85 million, of which \$15.5 million was for projects in 2007.

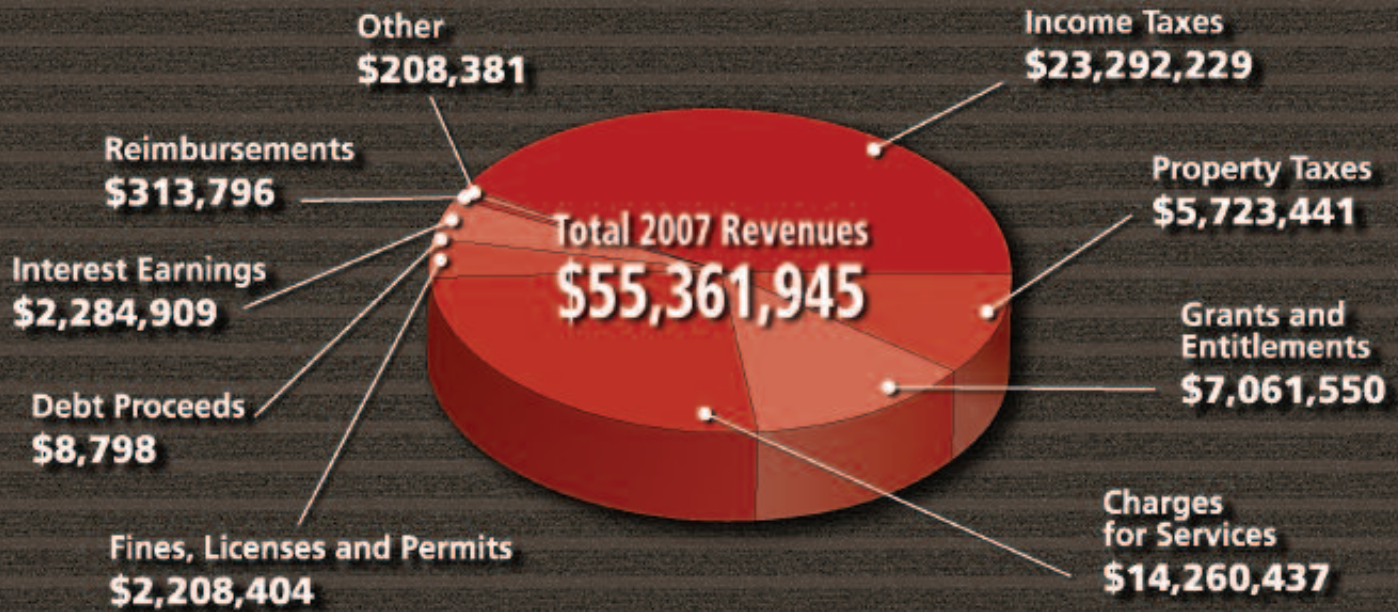
Uses for Fairfield's 1.5% income tax revenue

During 2007, Fairfield's 1.5% income tax generated \$24.1 million. The following is a breakdown of how the money was allocated:

- 1.1% or \$17.7 million which paid for general operations of the City of Fairfield.
- 0.2% or \$ 3.2 million which paid for street improvements for the City of Fairfield.
- 0.2% or \$ 3.2 million which paid for capital improvements for the City of Fairfield.

This data is reflected on the charts and balance sheets found on the following pages

Revenues

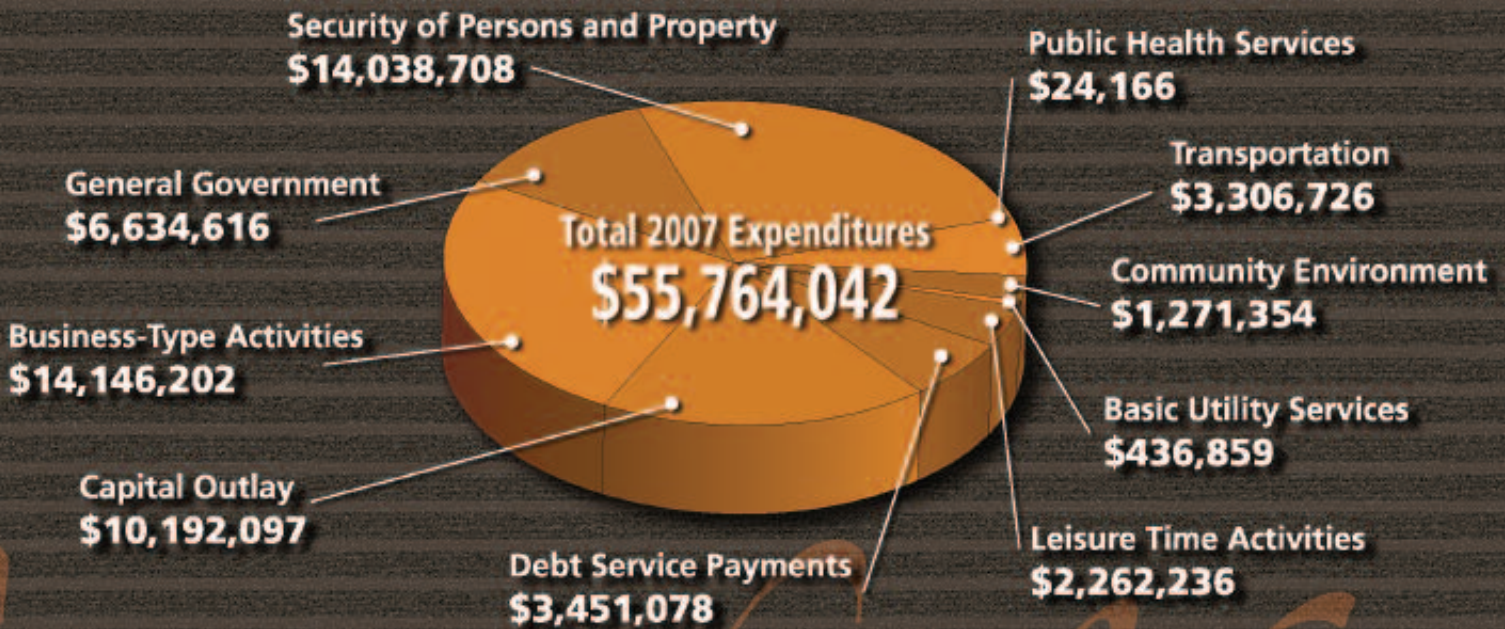


	2006	2007
Income Taxes	\$21,622,082	\$23,292,229
Property Taxes	5,560,546	5,723,441
Grants and Entitlements	6,542,525	7,061,550
Charges for Services	13,040,682	14,260,437
Fines, Licenses and Permits	2,587,553	2,208,404
Debt Proceeds	2,204,554	8,798
Interest Earnings	2,090,505	2,284,909
Reimbursements	1,547,560	313,796
Other	819,027	208,381*
Total Revenues	\$56,015,034	\$55,361,945

*Decrease due to sale of asset (Old Justice Center) in 2006

This overview of the City's financial operation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, is presented on a cash basis and is not intended to be presented in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The City's audited financial statements are generally completed 6 months after the end of the fiscal year, with an official audit report completed soon thereafter.

Expenditures



	2006	2007
Government Activities		
General Government	\$6,720,964	\$6,634,616
Security of Persons and Property	13,518,966	14,038,708
Public Health Services	24,363	24,166
Transportation	2,591,952	3,306,726
Community Environment	1,183,120	1,271,354
Basic Utility Services	532,614	436,859
Leisure Time Activities	2,129,375	2,262,236
Debt Service Payments	3,991,927	3,451,078
Capital Outlay	11,321,781	10,192,097
Total Government Activities	\$42,015,062	\$41,617,840
Business-Type Activities		
Water Utility	\$3,669,294	\$4,324,752
Sewer Utility	7,447,730	6,079,643
Solid Waste Utility	1,852,066	2,007,336
Recreation Facilities	1,700,289	1,734,471
Total Business-Type Activities	\$14,669,379	\$14,146,202
Total Expenditures	\$56,684,441	\$55,764,042
Excess of Revenues	(\$669,407)	(\$402,097)
Over (Under) Expenditures		

Service Above & Beyond in 2007

The STARS of Fairfield

Robert Jackson

Maintenance Worker/Laborer
Public Works Department

For the past three years, Mr. Jackson has participated in the "Summer Adventures for All Kids" event presented by the Butler, Clermont and Hamilton Counties Mental Retardation/Developmental



Disabilities (MR/DD) Boards, St. Joseph Orphanage and Southwest Ohio Special Education Regional Resource Center. While at the event, he is usually mobbed for autographs... not because of his current position with Fairfield, but as a former pro football player with the Cincinnati Bengals.

While signing autographs for this worthy cause, Robert signed up for much more, becoming a mentor for a young man who desperately needed a male role model.

Cindi Lewellyn

Recreation Manager
Parks & Recreation Department

During the Community Art Center's Theater A-Z production of "Peggy the Pint-Sized Pirate" and its Dance Troupe production of "Fairfield Starz, Cindi single-handedly ensured that both Fairfield Starz shows were completely organized and ran without interruption.

She worked very late into the night on Saturday making programs, arranging student photos and attending to every detail required to ensure the show was professional and enjoyable.

Cindi's dedication continued over the next week when she transported all the props for shows at the schools of performers so they could showcase their talent to their teachers and fellow students.



In hopes of recognizing employees who have performed their duties with **Service, Teamwork, Above and beyond** performance and **Reliability**, Fairfield introduced the STAR award in 2000. Residents are encouraged to nominate a City worker for the award by contacting the City Manager's office at 867-5350.

Janette Matala

Zoning Inspector/Clerk
Development Services

Ms. Matala sometimes comes across properties in violation of code because they need repair, maintenance or lawn care. Usually a letter is all it takes for the homeowner to address the problems and bring their property into code compliance.



Occasionally, however, the property belongs to an elderly or disabled citizen unable to address the repairs. On at least two occasions, Janette has contacted the City's Volunteer Coordinator to get help for the homeowners from RASKALS (Random Acts of Simple Kindness Affecting Local Seniors). She then often volunteers with the crew who addresses the needs she identified in the course of her job.

Lynda McGuire

Building Clerk
Development Services

Ms. McGuire invests countless hours in the organization and planning of the City's annual Home Expo. In addition to her regular duties, often after hours, Lynda recruited committee members, organized committee meetings, established meeting agendas and made contact with vendors. Early in the planning process, Lynda realized that space was going to be more limited this year due to the move to the Community Arts Center, so she formed a committee of employees to assist with the selection of vendors. On the day of the event, she made sure that the workers were organized and informed so that they could provide the best customer service possible.



Stars of the Year



Jason Turner & Robert "RC" Wysong

Operator/Maintenance Workers
Public Utilities Department

Mr. Turner and Mr. Wysong were involved with a special project critical to long-term planning for the Wastewater Division. The project required the installation of 36 computerized monitors throughout the City's wastewater collection system. After 90 days, the monitors were to be collected with the data to be analyzed by a local engineering firm.

The installation and collection process would have required an outside firm at a cost of \$25,000 to \$30,000. The employees, however, felt they could undertake the project and save the funds. In order to work on the project, both had to acquire special skills so they could install and retrieve the monitors.

Not only did the two take on additional responsibility, their efforts saved significant funds that could be used in other areas.

Mike Sulfridge

Police Officer
Police Department

Officer Sulfridge started his graveyard shift on a traditionally quiet Monday night. Since no sergeants or lieutenants were on duty, Mike was assigned the position of Designated Senior Officer. As the night unfolded, it turned out to be anything but a typical overnight shift.

Shortly before 1 a.m., as Officer Sulfridge was assisting fellow officers with a hit skip incident, the driver of the vehicle fled on foot. Two officers and a canine began pursuit. Just as they were about to apprehend the suspect, without warning, he shot himself in the head. The suicide was so disturbing and shocking that one of the officers experienced chest pains and had to be rushed to the hospital. Officer Sulfridge immediately went from taking pictures at the site of the hit skip to taking charge of a chaotic incident that placed his officers in peril, drawing praise from them for his concern and leadership.



JoBeth Yambrich

Recreation Programmer (part-time)
Parks & Recreation Department

Over a four year period, Ms. Yambrich has provided support in many of the City's events and activities. She personally initiated many of the fitness classes such as Pilates, Yogalates, Body Sculpting, Body Basics, Cardio Kickboxing and Trim & Tone.

Not only is Ms. Yambrich involved in almost all Parks & Recreation events and activities, she goes above and beyond in her role as Recreation Programmer. Last year, for example, the contract instructor for the Cardio Kickboxing and Trim & Tone classes informed the Parks Department that she would not be able to teach these Saturday morning classes. When she couldn't find anyone right away, Ms. Yambrich taught the entire six-week class, giving up Saturday mornings with her family in order to avoid cancelling the classes.

That's not all. When a concert was rained out, Ms. Yambrich left her dry spot to help an elderly couple fold



their chairs, held their umbrellas, carried their belongings and escorted them from the park.

Brad Williams

Recreation Programmer
Parks & Recreation Department

While he usually focuses his efforts on the senior adult population of the City, Mr. Williams' has certifications to reach out to residents with mental retardation or developmental disabilities.



Mr. Williams began a "Movies in the Theater" program on weekdays and arranged for busing of residents from local MR/DD facilities to the Community Art Center. Typically, three or more busloads of residents participate in the program and usually see a "first-run" movie and receive a bag of popcorn as part of a "day out" at the CAC. He also began an arts and crafts program for the special residents and even participated with them in a basketball game at a local elementary school.



City of Fairfield

5350 Pleasant Avenue
Fairfield, Ohio 45014

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